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FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM OF ISRAEL

DAILY PRESS BULLETIN

No. 37

Tel-Aviv, 6th September, 1948

1)) BERNADOTTE'S TRAVELS.

("Mivrak", 6.9.48.)

The Swedish Count has set out on a new series of visits to Middle Eastern capitals.

With each successive travel his chances increase by about 1%. At the time he set forth on his mission his chances of success were nil; at the time of the first truce he estimated them at 1%; with the second truce they rose in his opinion to 2%.

A simple calculation will prove that 98 additional truces are all that is needed by the Count in order to bring his mission to a successful finish. It seems, however, that Bernadotte is looking for a short cut (perhaps by application of higher mathematics) and he is right; there is every likelihood that his chances may noticeably and rapidly improve.

Even our ministers cannot conceal any longer that the truce has created for us an unbearable situation. That much is clear to every soldier on the front and every civilian at his home. The truce weighs down on us heavily and the weaker we become, the less capable we are to carry the burden. The truce is threatening us with an economic collapse and general loss of morale.

REGISTRY COPY

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To-day we are still strong enough to gain a military decision, but later we will be left with no alternative but to rely on Bernadotte's mediation. Then his chances will soar.

What kind of proposals will the mediator put forward when we have been sufficiently weakened? Past experience provides a ready answer.

After the first round of war, which from the military viewpoint ended in our favour, Bernadotte proposed to make Abdullah king of Jerusalem. After the second round he went so far as to demand the return of Arab refugees. When he feels that our strength is ebbing he will propose something very near to a total liquidation of our independence.

Bernadotte has been waging against us a war of procrastination and attrition. Only now he has reported to the Security Council that the blowing up of the Latrun pumping station by Arabs constituted a violation of the truce, but - it was perpetrated by "irregulars". Although the Security Council decided that governments concerned would bear full responsibility for all activities of their respective irregulars, in this case Bernadotte has not threatened to impose sanctions. He is in no hurry; time works in his favour and in the favour of his employers in London and Washington.

There remains only one way open to counter Bernadotte's tactics: to force the issue. To create a situation that would make it impossible for Bernadotte and his observers to operate. To bring them to a political and practical bankruptcy.

This should be the main object of the Jewish policy at present, and not an effort to achieve membership in the U.N.O. For if Bernadotte is allowed sufficient time, our state will cease to exist before its application is submitted to the final vote.

If internationally recognized Arab states, respected members of the U.N.O., tolerate the existence of freely acting "irregular forces", why should not the State of Israel have them too? What was once known as Underground has now a name and address and will not be considered an "irregular force", but the historical necessity that brought it into being eight years ago has not lost its creative force yet.

The task of the moment is to oust Bernadotte and his observers. Blessed be the hand that does it!

FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM OF ISRAEL

D A I L Y P R E S S B U L L E T I N

No. 38

Tel-Aviv, 8th September, 1948

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1) ANOTHER BRILLIANT OPERATION.

("Mivrak", 8.9.48.)

Who will decorate the Minister of Security? Probably the whole Provisional Government 'in corpore'.

The Minister of Security knows no rest or respite. He is worried lest the army degenerate because of lack of exercise during the truce. The pleasant memory of that splendid operation "Consolidation" is still fresh in the memories of 200 000 inhabitants of Tel-Aviv and already yesterday, at dawn, army units were again usefully employed in an even more glorious operation: encirclement of and a wholesale search in Ramath-Yair, youth movement camp, farm and supply base of L.H.Y. of Jerusalem, situated at Sheikh Mowannis.

The Minister of Defence should decorate the commander in charge of the operation for the splendid manner in which it was executed; Barker's officers could not have done better.

The officer in charge did not put himself to the trouble of producing a search warrant or asking the responsible men of the place to witness the search. He did not even ask for keys. He gave order to his mixed force (army, military police, civil police) to rush forward and smash locked doors with the butts of their rifles. He was disappointed to find no opposition (for there was nothing to conceal). Nevertheless he ordered to direct the muzzles of his Spandaus at youngsters. He even ordered those youngsters to raise their hands, to which they replied with dignity: "We did not raise our hands when ordered by British and we are not going to obey your order". In the circumstances it is rather strange that the brave commander did not order his soldiers to open fire at the youths, as British did at Raanana. With this single exception, everything was exactly the same: even money was missed from youngsters' savings boxes. Some settlements

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still remember such performances, nor has the general public forgotten them. Newspaper reports of that period could be reproduced again and give an accurate picture of what happened: brutality, damage to property, horror.

The operation has taken place just at the time when negotiations about a final settlement are in progress in Jerusalem, when Minister of Interior invites L.H.Y. representatives to official discussions. The brutality of the officer in charge and the rattle of rifle-butts destroy the Minister's case. Fighters for Freedom in Jerusalem must reconsider the matter and exercise utmost circumspection. It is rather difficult to show good will towards those who behave savagely.

We would also like to point out to the Head of the Government and the Minister of Defence two errors made by him:

He made a mistake in expecting to find in Sheikh Mowannis revolutionary regiments, ready to overthrow him. Such regiments actually exist, but Sheikh Mowannis is a wrong place to look for them: they are dispersed throughout the country, they are everywhere, in every house in towns and villages, even in the ranks of the army. They have no Spandaus or rifles - their weapons are their wrath, their suffering, their discontent with the vagaries of the Provisional Government. When time comes they will give expression to their feelings.

Another mistake. We understand that the Head of the Government is very anxious to demonstrate that he is not a Social Democrat of the Weimar type. In this he has perhaps succeeded. But he has also proved himself to be a Social Democrat of the London type, of the Bevin's kind. It is a well known fact that Bevin is highly unpopular in Eretz-Israel, where he suffered once an ignominious defeat.

P. S. A few words to the Censor.

You are probably seized with the desire to let loose your red pencil on the above. There is, however, no justification to do so: no military secrets are disclosed here.

Another reason: look up "Davar" and you will find there even more acrimonious articles, written in connection with similar occasions during the British rule. British censorship passed them and you can rely on its judgment. We hope this reason will satisfy you.